

**In the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

8. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:

- positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;
- shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article;
- applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article; and
- applying a protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol—overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material.

9. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:

- positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;
- shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article;
- applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article;
- applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material; and
- applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

Claims 10-17 (cancelled)

18. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

- positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover; removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol—Overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material.

19. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material; and

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

Claims 20-24 (cancelled)

25. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said

second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article; and

applying protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol—overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material.

26. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material; and

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

Claims 26-29 (cancelled)

30. (Original) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

forming over at least a portion of the second article a cover comprising a heat shrinkable material;

heating said cover to shrink said heat shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at

least a portion of said second article;

- applying a first wax layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover;
- applying a first protective layer overlying said first wax layer;
- applying a first layer of surface coating overlying said first protective layer;
- applying a first layer of molding material overlying said first layer of surface coating to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;
- removing said mold from said fitted cover;
- applying a second wax layer overlying said surface of said mold;
- applying a second protective layer overlying said second wax layer;
- applying a second layer of surface coating overlying said second protective layer;
- applying a second layer of molding material overlying said second layer of surface coating to form a first article; and
- removing said first article from said mold.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, said first article comprising a hard cover for said second article.

Claims 32-33 (cancelled).